(ख) और (ग) कोल इंडिया लि० और इसकी सहायक कंपनियों के अनुसार अवैध खनन क्रियाकलापों में उनके अधिकारियों की मिलीभगत होने के संबंध में उन्हें कोई जानकारी नहीं है।

Wholesale coal dealers in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan

666. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of wholesale coal dealers in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan at present State-wise;

(b) the number out of them who belong to SCs and STs;

(c) whether there is any proposal to appoint more SC/ST and weaker section wholesale coal dealers / agents in these States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The number of Whole Sale Traders of coal appointed by Coal India Limited in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra are given below:

State	No. of Whole Sale Traders
Rajasthan	12
Gujarat	NIL
Maharashtra	NIL

(b) to (d) The information regarding the number of Whole Sale Traders belonging to SC/ST, out of those appointed in the above States is not available with Coal India Limited since the policy does not provide for any special treatment for any class of persons. However, the Scheme has been made open ended with no last date for receipt of applications. There is also no fixed number of persons to be appointed as whole sale traders. As such all SC/ST applicants who fulfil the criteria as stipulated in the scheme, can be appointed as Whole Sale Traders under the above mentioned scheme.

Revision of rate of royalty

667. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently constitued any study group to consider afresh the question of revision of the rate of royalty on coal; and

(b) if so, who heads this study group and by when it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Study Group to consider the question of revision of rates' of royalty on coal has been constituted under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Coal. The Group is expected to submit its report by 30th April, 1994.

बहुराष्ट्रिक कम्पनियों को कोयला खानों का सौंपा जाना

668. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने देश में अनेक कोयला खानों को बहुराष्ट्रिक कम्पनियों को सौंपने की योजना बनाई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार की इस योजना के विरोध में देश के प्रमुख मजदूर संघों के आह्वान पर हाल में कोयला मजदूरों ने देश व्यापी हड़ताल की थी।

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ङ) क्या सरकार इस संबंध में अपनी नीति की समीक्षा करने का विचार रखती है?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजित कुमार पांजा): (क) और (ख) जी, नहीं। कोयला खान (राष्ट्रीयकरण) अधिनियम, 1973 को दिनांक